



For Immediate Release
Contact: Peter Roessmann
Phone: (970) 945-8522

April 22, 2004

Elkhead Reservoir Expansion Moving Forward, Final Engineering to Proceed

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The Board of Directors of the Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise of the Colorado River Water Conservation District voted yesterday to proceed with final engineering for the Elkhead Reservoir Enlargement project. The project will raise the height of the dam at the reservoir by 20 feet, increasing the reservoir's storage capacity by 11,700 acre-feet of water. The additional water will be used to meet present and future human needs, as well as providing water necessary for the recovery of populations of endangered fish species in the Yampa River.

The final engineering process will create the detailed drawings and specifications required to put the project out to bid by late 2004. Construction is expected to begin early in 2005. The decision to authorize the final engineering phase became possible due to progress on a number of critical agreements necessary for the reservoir's enlargement to move ahead.

Situated on a tributary of the Yampa River in northwest Colorado, Elkhead Reservoir currently has a capacity of 13,700 acre-feet of water which is available for municipal use by the City of Craig, power generation and recreation.

The enlargement will take approximately three years from design through construction. The project will include upgraded outlet controls, a new spillway and improved recreational facilities. Though the reservoir will be closed to the public during construction to ensure safety, the \$17.5 million construction project will be beneficial to the local economy.

The Water Supply Projects Committee of the Colorado River Water Conservation District's Colorado River Water Projects Enterprise will meet in Craig on June 30, 2004 to further discuss the enlargement project.

###